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the oldest firms in the business. Other well known Chicago dealers are J. A. Pierce of room 107½, 201 Clark street, and S. C. Stevens, in the McCormick block on Dearborn street. The S. B. Bradt Company now has a monthly auction in Chicago, at one of the last of which a Confederate States stamp—a 10-cent green issued at Nashville—sold for \$49.50.

A. L. Holman, of Chicago, whose stamp collection was probably the best there, and valued at about \$20,000, sold it recently to a gentleman in Connecticut. W. H. Peeke also has an excellent collection. Among the best-known collectors in that city is Washington Hering of the *Staats Zeitung*.

George W. Perrigo is authority for the statement that undoubtedly the only genuine collection of the general issues of the United States stamps was that owned at one time by Fred Grant, son of General Grant, and prepared for and presented to the latter while serving as President, by the Post-office Department at Washington. The album containing these almost priceless stamps was elegantly bound in Russia leather, and upon the leaves of Bristol of the finest quality, printed in colors, were impressions of every stamp ever issued by the United States Government. The book contained some of the most beautiful designs imaginable, including full sets of the famous issues of 1869 and 1875, which for artistic beauty, have never been excelled by any other country in the world. The Grant Collection, which likewise embraced many rare issues of foreign governments, presented to General Grant during his terms as President, was placed in the hands of a friend of the family at Galena, Ill., for safe keeping at the time the Grants made their trip around the world.

It is said that the finest collection of United States and foreign stamps in this country is owned by John W. Scott, of New York City, the philatelist and numismatist, one of the originators of the business of collecting stamps and coins, and probably the most extensive dealer in both these commodities in the world. The estimated value of the Scott collection is placed at \$50,000, and includes the originals of almost every revenue and postage stamp ever issued.

John Borgeson is a young man of Chicago, who swindled stamp dealers out of several hundred dollars' worth of valuable stock. His crowning episode was to forge the name of the son of J. W. Carrington, Jr., of the Phoenix building, in one of his swindling feats. Mr. Carrington took up the matter and Postoffice-Inspector Fleming arrested Borgeson, finding him by means of a decoy letter. He was about 17 years of age, but very small. He claimed to be but 14 and was about to be let off with a light sentence, although he pleaded guilty. His father, however, told the truth about the boy's age; it was proven that this was only the last of many offenses, and he was sentenced by Judge Blodgett in October, 1890, to eighteen months in the penitentiary. The forgery charge was dropped, and he was tried only on the charge of using the mails for swindling purposes.

## THE MONTREAL ART ASSOCIATION

THE Art Association of Montreal announces the opening of its annual Spring exhibition for the 18th of April next. Works for exhibition will be received up to April 9th. Through the liberality of several members of the Association, the Council has been enabled to offer as prizes for competition at this exhibition: For the best figure painting in oil, \$200, second best figure painting in oil, \$100, for the best sea or landscape painting in oil, \$200, second best sea or landscape painting in oil, \$100, for the best portrait in oil, \$100, for the best painting of still life in oil, \$100, for the best painting by an artist under thirty years of age, not a Royal Canadian Academician or Associate, \$100, second best painting by an artist under thirty years of age, not a Royal Canadian Academician or Associate, \$50, for the best painting in oil, by an artist who has been within three years, or is now a pupil of the Association, \$75, for the second best painting in oil, by an artist who has been within three years, or is now a pupil of the Association, \$50, for the best water color, \$100, second best water color, \$50. A special prize is also provided for the picture obtaining the greatest number of votes of visitors attending the exhibition, for which purpose each ticket of admission shall carry one vote, each single ticket of Association membership, two votes, and each family ticket, three votes, the prize amounting to \$200. All artists resident in Canada, or Canadian artists studying or residing abroad, may compete for these prizes. Detailed particulars may be obtained by addressing the Secretary of the Association, Mr. Robert Lindsay.

Professor Edmund B. Southwick, Entomologist of the Central and city parks of this city, has presented to the New York Historical Society two portraits in oil of Captain John Waddell and Anne Kirton, his wife. They were painted in New York prior to 1762, and are valuable as specimens of early American art, and as illustrating the costumes worn in this city during the colonial period.

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The vast enlightenment and liberality of official intelligence of our Treasury Department once more dazzles us like the gleam of a brass button on a tide-waiter's coat-tail. Mr. Robert Garrett recently imported, for his art gallery in Baltimore, a painting by Rubens, "The Duchesse du Cruey," at a cost, in London, of \$15,329. An *ad valorem* duty of 30 per cent was assessed upon it at the Custom House, against which Mr. Garrett protested on the ground that the painting was intended for his collection of antiques. The matter has just been disposed of, and it is decided that one picture is not a "collection," even if an antique. Mr. Garrett therefore pays about \$4,600 duties.

## NOTES AND NOVELTIES

THE newspaper announcement that some collector out west has picked up several Ferara blades at a bargain, makes it worth while to call the attention of collectors of ancient arms to a fact of importance to them. This is that if Andrea Ferara forged all the blades he is credited with, he must have begun working back in the time of Tubal Cain and be still at it. The fact is that the great Venetian swordsmith was not a prolific producer at all. The Baron de Casson, who is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and has a fine collection of ancient armor and weapons, and probably knows more about these things than any other person in Europe or America, recently touched upon this subject in a paper read before the Royal Archaeological Institute in London. "It is certain," he said, "that common as blades bearing the signature Andrea Ferara are in this country, scarcely any of them are the work of Maestro de i Ferari in his workshop at Belluno, where he worked with his brother, Giovan Donato de i Ferari, some of whose blades, signed Zandona, still exist. Nearly all the blades commonly attributed to Andrea Ferara are manifestly of seventeenth century make, and Böheim states that Andrea was born in 1530 and died about 1583. It is possible that a few of the finest blades existing in Scotland and England bearing the name of Andrea Ferara may be his work; but as yet I know very few which I can positively attribute to the master, or even to the epoch when he lived, and it is curious that the Italian collections possess very few even bearing his name. What is certain is that for nearly fifty years after his death Solingen turned out hundreds of blades bearing his name for exportation to those countries where a true Ferara was held in high repute, just as it supplied false Toledo blades to those where a rapier was preferred to a broad sword."

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One of the most useful and valuable libraries in the country is that of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It is the property of the commonwealth, but is free from partisan interference and has legislative aid. The library now numbers about 80,000 volumes and 60,000 pamphlets. The Society has probably the largest collection of Dutch books in the United States. These were comprised in the private library of a scholarly Amsterdam clergyman named Van der Meulen, who left them by will to his daughter, then living in Wisconsin. This lady having no place to store the books, presented them to the Society on condition that it pay the freight charges from Holland. This collection consists of 5,000 old and rare books, mostly in the Dutch language. Nearly half of them are richly bound in vellum, and many are profusely illustrated with seventeenth century copper-plate engravings. In the collection are numerous Bibles, atlases and charts, old editions of the classics, early lexicons and historical works.

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A law is to be passed in Costa Rica making the sale to foreigners of Indian antiquities collected in the republic a crime punishable with severe penalties. A similar law is to be passed in Ecuador.

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Last month witnessed the incorporation at Albany of the National Philatelic Society, with its principal office in New York, and with its objects social intercourse, mutual benefit, historical and literary research, the establishing of a library, to foster friendship between philatelists, and to maintain a collection of stamps, coins, etc. The Trustees for the first year are: Joseph Rechert, George Hencken, Louis S. Morton, Rudolph F. Albrecht, Charles W. Greoning, Frederick W. Hunter, Henry Collin, Louis Steps, Charles L. Moreau, Morris C. Berlepsch, Max Meyenberg, George H. Watson, George W. Crittenton, Rudolphus R. Bogert, and Albert E. Lawrence.

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The Loan Exhibition at the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy last month brought out a strong representation of the private collectors of that city. Among the gentlemen who loaned pictures for the occasion were Messrs. Ralph H. Plumb, J. J. Albright, Charles F. Bingham, George B. Mathews, John C. Glenny, Willis O. Chapin and Edmund Hayes. Besides the pictures there was an interesting gathering of relics and curios, including tapestries belonging to Mr. McGraw, Mr. Cary and Mr. Albright, Mr. Cushing's Zuni collection, Mrs. T. R. Slicer's curios, Dr. Lobdell's relics from Nineveh, the Watson collection of relics from Thebes, Mrs. S. S. Spaulding's novel pitcher collection, Mrs. S. V. R. Watson's Swedish curios, Mr. James R. Smith's panel of carved ivory and other artistic objects.

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Gen. Adrian R. Root has presented to the Buffalo Historical Society his entire collection of war relics and mementoes of the War of the Rebellion. The collection contains fifty-three different pieces, and includes battle flags, muskets, swords, bayonets, canteens, ammunition boxes, belts, sashes, epaulets, field-glasses and other relics, many of which were used by men who have distinguished themselves and whose names are known and honored in local and national circles. Gen. Root is at present preparing a detailed description and history of his treasures, which will be bound in book form and placed with the collection, as a catalogue and descriptive manual. Another valuable and recent addition to the Historical Society's collections is the Frederick H. Mixer collection of relics of the War of the Revolution, War of 1812 and of the Rebellion, and curios from foreign lands, numbering seventy pieces.